

Masonry Madness: A Collaborative Full-Scale Construction Studio

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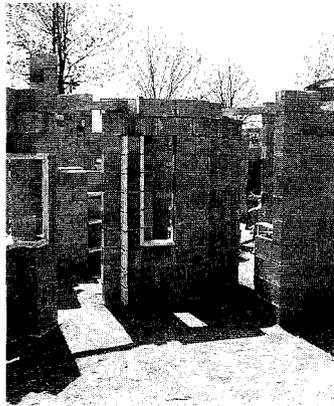


Figure 1: the finished wall

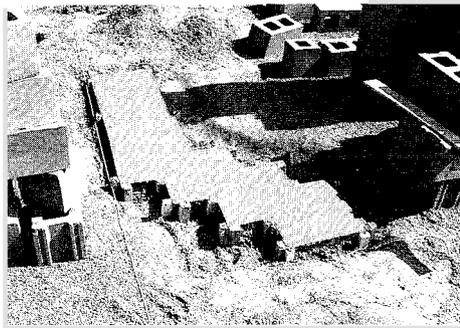


Figure 2: poured foundations

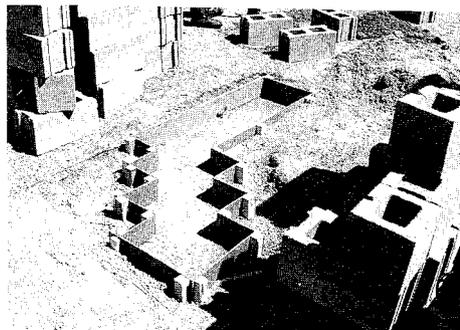


Figure 3: built formwork

PROJECT

Design and construct an architectural fragment - a wall - using seventy two 8"x8"x16", and twenty four 8"x8"x8" concrete masonry units. Twelve teams of three or four persons are each to be allocated a plot on the larger site (arranged radially). Negotiation within teams must occur to establish wall design. Negotiation between teams must occur to establish boundary usage between adjoining sites.

PROGRAM

Each wall fragment is to include: a wood and/or steel seat, (not <16" deep and 24" wide), a window (opening) with a wood and/or steel frame, head, jamb, and sill, a beam seat to accommodate overhead beams, and a shelf made of wood and/or steel. Assignment of site lots is the luck of the draw, after which a site analysis will inform design decisions. Prior to laying of foundations each team is to submit a site study and a preliminary design for their lot. Twelve 4"x4" timber beams will link each pair of neighboring walls, which must be sited with a 2' minimum clearance between.

OBJECTIVES

As faculty we decided to prescribe very definite and restricted parameters within which the students would operate. In encouraging teamwork in a studio without the danger of losing the traces of any one student we restricted team size and established specific tasks for each individual. It was a considered intent of the brief that the students would be constructing a space that was beyond their own design experience (unlimited by a prior knowledge of what constitutes architectural space). The final objective was to instill in the students the importance of negotiation and accommodation of the ideas of others (the assertion that negotiation is a design potential of architecture).

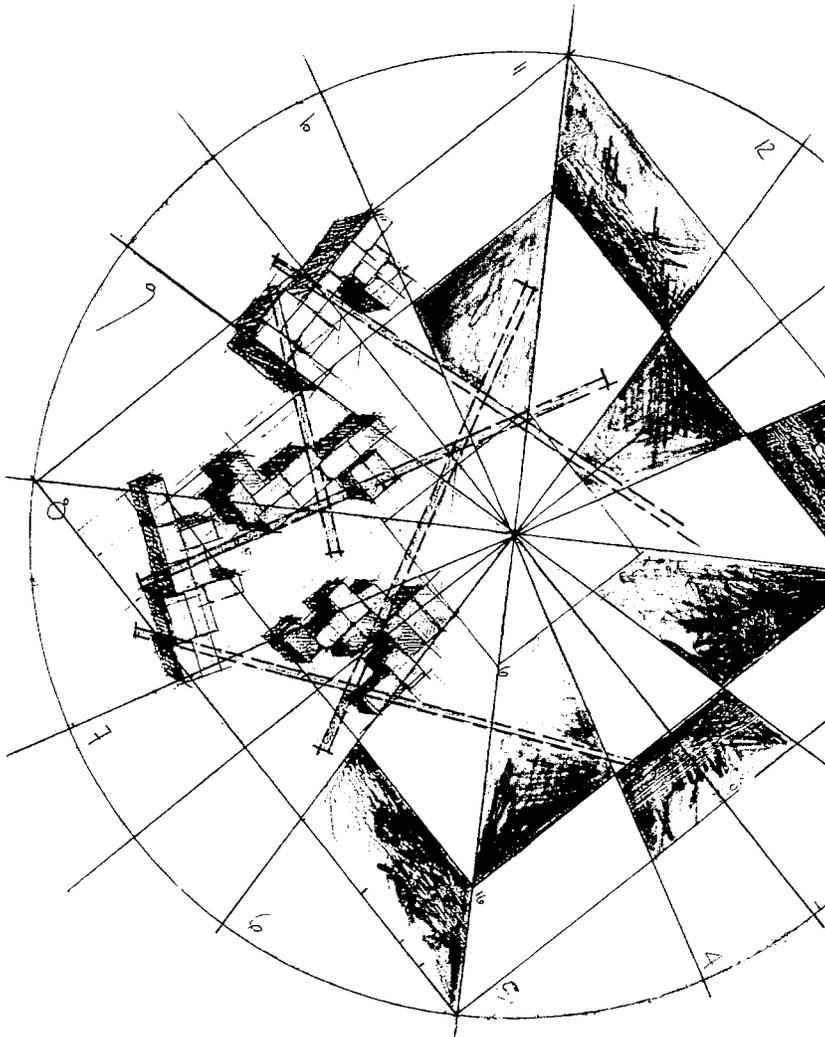


Figure 4: site: the three squares were marked out on the ground with cord. Outside square boundary was of 30' side length. Inside square boundary was of 6' side length. Intermediate site boundary was of 14' side length. Radial lines must be met by block walls both sides, up to half a block may overlap the site lines.



Figure 5: the construction



Figure 6: site, bird's eye view

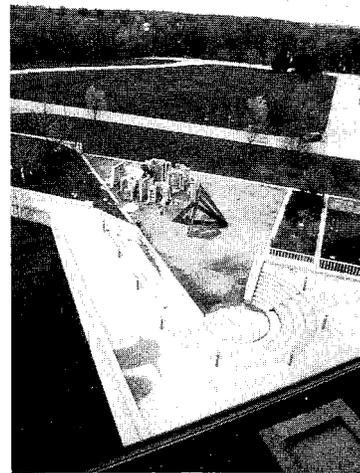


Figure 7: one wall

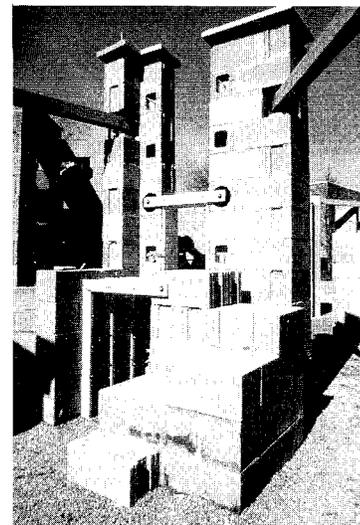


Figure 8: work in progress